



THE CENTURION

DELAWARE COMMISSION OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Robbins Bldg. – 802 Silver Lake Blvd., Suite 100, Dover, Delaware 19904

(302) 739-2792 or (800) 344-9900 (in State)

Internet Website: <http://www.veteransaffairs.delaware.gov>

Fax (302) 739-2794

Jack A Markell, Governor

Jeffrey W. Bullock, Secretary of State

Volume 19, Number 2

James L. Thompson, Chairman

Antonio Davila, Executive Director

Apr-Jun 2012

CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

My Fellow Veterans,

I would like to publicly acknowledge the outstanding work performed by all Commissioners and their respective organizations on behalf of Delaware veterans and their families. I am proud to serve as their master of ceremonies for meetings and activities. I would also like to thank the veterans organizations for their active support of Dover Air Force Base military personnel and their families and for supporting our Delaware National Guard and Reserve components. I am a little disappointed though that most of our recently separated military veterans do not actively join our state veterans organizations. Veterans organizations need new blood in order to continue with their work of aiding and supporting veterans and their dependents. I highly encourage those who have never attended ceremonies designed to honor our brave men and women, who have made the supreme sacrifice for our country, to take the time to do so this year by attending the activities planned for Memorial Day throughout Delaware. The Commission and Delaware Veterans Inc. are co-hosting the annual Memorial Day Ceremony at the Delaware Memorial Bridge on May 30, 2012, beginning at 10:30 AM. Later that day the Commission and Korean War Veterans Association will conduct a ceremony at the Delaware Veterans Memorial Cemetery (Bear, DE) beginning at 2:00 PM to honor our deceased heroes and their family members. Please show your patriotism by joining us at these ceremonies on this most solemn of days. A word of special thanks to Ms. Melanie Bronov, State Veterans Service Officer for Kent County, who recently resigned and has relocated to another state. Over her many years of involvement, she capably assisted our veterans in pursuing their VA benefits and entitlements.

Sincerely,
James L. Thompson
Chairman

MEMORIAL DAY SERVICES

May 30, 2012

Delaware Veterans, Inc. and the Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs will host a Memorial Day Service on Wednesday, May 30, 2012. The service will be held at the Memorial Bridge Plaza, Delaware Memorial Bridge, New Castle, Delaware, beginning at 10:30 AM. Following the services at the Memorial Bridge Plaza, the Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs and Korean War Veterans Association, Department of Delaware, will conduct a service at the Delaware Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Bear, Delaware, at 2:00 PM. For further information, please call (800) 344-9900 (in state only) or (302) 739-2792.



BIGGS MUSEUM OF AMERICAN ART TO HOST PICTURING WWI: THE AMERICAN ILLUSTRATION COLLECTION OF THE DELAWARE NATIONAL GUARD



In a time before televisions or even the widespread use of radio, Americans received their news and entertainment from popular magazines and illustrations. Among Delaware's most famous illustrators of the early 20th century, Frank E. Schoonover (1877-1972) and Gayle Porter Hoskins (1887-1962) painted hundreds of images during their careers to illuminate current articles and popular stories. These artists were commissioned by one of America's most popular magazines, The

Ladies Home Journal, to illustrate key events and scenes from World War I for thousands of readers. Picturing WWI features several Hoskins and Schoonover paintings, created between 1917 and 1919, of the experiences of World War One soldiers. The exhibition is a rare opportunity to see this exceptional collection owned by the Delaware National Guard. Picturing WWI will be on view May 4 through June 24, 2012 and will open with a First Look party on May 4 from 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Both the exhibition and First Look Party are free and open to the public. For more information please contact the Biggs Museum at 302-674-2111 or online at www.biggsmuseum.org. The Biggs Museum is a private non-profit 501(c)3 organization located at 406 Federal Street in Dover, Delaware. The Museum is open Tuesday through Saturday; 9:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. and Sunday; 1:30 p.m. until 4:30 p.m.

TIPS FOR SUMMER TRAVEL

With summer right around the corner; here are some tips for traveling:

- *Use traveler's checks and credit cards instead of cash whenever possible. Take only those credit cards you need.

- *Carry a purse close to your body, not dangling by the straps. Carry a wallet in an inside coat or front trouser pocket.

Better still, wear a money pouch underneath your clothing.

- *Be alert for pickpockets in crowded areas like airline, bus and train terminals, major tourist attractions and public transportation.

- *Don't look distracted or lost. Walk confidently and stay alert to what's happening around you.

- *Stay alert for staged mishaps, like someone bumping into you or spilling a drink, a stranger offering to snap a family photo or a pedestrian jumping in front of the car and falling so you leap out to investigate.

Before You Go

- *Plan ahead. If you're traveling by car, get maps and plan your route. Have the car and tires checked out before you leave.

*Leave copies of the numbers of your passport, driver's license, credit cards and traveler's checks with a friend in case you need to replace them.

*Put lights and a radio on timers to create the illusion that someone is at home when you go away. Leave shades, blinds and curtains in normal positions.

Stop the mail and newspapers or ask a neighbor to take them in.

Once You're There

*When you check into a hotel or motel, check out the locks. Look for deadbolts or solid doors with peepholes. FYI...

The new coded electronic cards are safer than ordinary key locks.

*Be sure your luggage is locked. Keep it close to you at all times.

*Keep valuables in a hotel safe or safe deposit box. Better still, leave them at home.

*Ask the hotel staff or police about the neighborhood's safety and what areas to avoid.

*Lock belongings in your suitcase or keep them out of sight.

*Don't display guest room keys in public or carelessly leave them on restaurant tables, at the swimming pool, or other places where they can be easily stolen. (*Kevin Secor, VA.Gov., March 15, 2012*)

VA ANNOUNCES WINNERS IN “BADGES FOR VETS” CONTEST

A major university, the National Association of Manufacturers and an international software developer have been honored by the Department of Veterans Affairs for their contributions to a new digital badge program that will make it easier for Veterans to document the skills they learned in uniform for civilian employers and institutions of higher education. “We strive to support the men and women who served in uniform as they make their transitions to good jobs and advanced education,” said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki, “Our Badges for Vets program will offer Veterans a handy tool to demonstrate their experience to employers and educators.” “Badges recognize the skills that members of our military are

learning in the field – making Veterans the real winners of this competition,” said Secretary of Education Arne Duncan. “These grantees will help to put Veterans on a fast track toward earning a degree or certificate and will let employers know they have workforce-ready skills.” Last November, VA announced a nation-wide competition to create digital “badges” to help Veterans translate their military skills into civilian jobs or to receive advance credit in higher education.

Finalists in the contest are:

- The Manufacturing Institute, an affiliate of the National Association of Manufacturers, which will incorporate badges in its online jobs-and-talent-matching platform.
- TopCoder, Inc., an international information technology consulting company, will issue badges representing military training and experience and use them to qualify a Veteran for a particular assignment.
- Western Governors University, a national, non-profit, university sponsored by 19 governors, will award academic transfer credit to Veterans who have earned digital badges representing corresponding military training. The university's initial focus will be in its IT and health care degree programs.

The finalists will now compete in the second phase of the contest to see which organization best implements its badges program by the end of May. VA will announce the final winner of the contest shortly after Memorial Day. A digital “badge” recognizes skills obtained through learning outside traditional classrooms, such as work-related training and experience. Digital badge credentials are issued by organizations such as schools, universities, employers or trade associations. Badges can be displayed and validated electronically on the Web or presented on a resume. Like any credential or academic credit, a digital badge can lead to a job or advanced academic standing. VA was joined by the departments of Education, Energy, and Labor to sponsor the contest. The Badges for Vets contest is part of the Badges for Lifelong Learning Competition, which aims to build digital badge systems and explore the ways badges can be used to help people learn, demonstrate skills and

knowledge, and unlock job, educational and civic opportunities. The competition is held in collaboration with Mozilla, supported by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation and administered by the Humanities, Arts, Science and Technology Advanced Collaboratory. "The U.S. military offers some of the highest quality training available," said Jonah Czerwinski, director of VA's Innovations Initiative (VAi2), which administered the contest. "Badges for Vets will deliver a return on our national investment in military training and experience." VA solicited the most promising ideas from VA employees, the private sector, non-profit organizations and academia to increase Veterans' access to VA services, improve the quality of those services, enhance the performance of VA operations and deliver services more efficiently.

Information about the Badges for Lifelong Learning Competition:

<http://www.dmlcompetition.net/>

<http://challenge.gov/VAi2/262-badges-for-vets>

Information about the VA Innovations Initiative:

www.va.gov/vai2/

Websites of the winners:

www.themanufacturinginstitute.org

<https://usmanufacturingpipeline.com/>

<http://www.topcoder.com/>

<http://www.wgu.edu/>

(VA News Release, March 1, 2012)

VA LAUNCHES PERSONALIZED HEALTH BENEFITS HANDBOOK

Veterans enrolled in the health care system of the Department of Veterans Affairs have begun to receive personalized booklets that explain their health care benefits and contain other useful information. "VA is committed to providing our Nation's Veterans with consistent, clear information about the services available to them," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. The new booklet, called a Health Benefits Handbook, will provide a personalized listing of health benefits based on each Veteran's specific eligibility. The handbook will also have contact information for their local VA medical facilities, appointment scheduling information, guidelines for

communicating with their clinical team and, as applicable, information about copays. Distribution of the handbooks began this month, with all 8.5 million Veterans enrolled in VA's health care system scheduled to receive their handbooks by 2013. Veterans will receive updates to their handbook to reflect changes to their benefits or eligibility. VA operates 152 medical centers and more than 800 community-based outpatient clinics. Last year, inpatient facilities treated more than 690,000 patients, while outpatient clinics registered more than 79 million visits. For more information about the Health Benefits Handbook, visit www.va.gov/healthbenefits/vhbh or call VA's toll-free number at 1-877-222-VETS (8387). (VA News Release, February 22, 2012)

VA EXPANDS MEDICAL FORMS PROGRAM TO SUPPORT FASTER CLAIMS PROCESSING

The Department of Veterans Affairs announced the release of 68 new forms that will help speed the processing of Veterans' disability compensation and pension claims. "VA employees will be able to more quickly process disability claims, since disability benefits questionnaires capture important medical information needed to accurately evaluate Veterans' claims," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. "Disability benefits questionnaires are just one of many changes VA is implementing to address the backlog of claims." The new forms bring to 71 the number of documents, called disability benefits questionnaires (DBQs), that guide physicians' reports of medical findings, ensuring VA has exactly the medical information needed to make a prompt decision. When needed to decide a disability claim for compensation or pension benefits, VA provides Veterans with free medical examinations for the purpose of gathering the necessary medical evidence. Veterans who choose to have their private physicians complete the medical examination can now give their physicians the same form a VA provider would use. It is very important that physicians provide complete responses to all questions on the DBQs. VA cannot pay for a

private physician to complete DBQs or for any costs associated with examination or testing. “By ensuring relevant medical information can be found on one form, we will cut processing time while improving quality,” added Under Secretary for Benefits Allison A. Hickey. DBQ’s can be found at <http://benefits.va.gov/disabilityexams>. The newly released DBQs follow the initial release of three DBQs for Agent Orange-related conditions. Veterans may file a claim online through the eBenefits web portal at <https://www.ebenefits.va.gov>. The Department of Defense and VA jointly developed the eBenefits portal as a single secure point of access for online benefit information and tools to perform multiple self-service functions such as checking the status of their claim. Servicemembers may enroll in eBenefits using their Common Access Card at any time during their military service, or before they leave during their Transition Assistance Program briefings. Veterans may also enroll in eBenefits and obtain a Premium account in-person or online depending on their status. (VA News Release, March 22, 2012)

VA PARTICIPATES IN SETTLEMENT WITH MORTGAGE BANKS

Secretary Announces Protections For Veterans

The Department of Veterans Affairs announced its participation in the largest state-federal legal settlement in history that deals with problems within the mortgage industry. “Through this historic settlement, VA has ensured that Veterans, Servicemembers, and National Guard and Reserve members will continue to receive every possible opportunity to retain their homes,” said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. VA joined with the Department of Justice, a coalition of state attorneys general and other federal agencies in the settlement. The nation’s five largest mortgage servicers have agreed to this landmark \$25 billion settlement that addresses past mortgage loan servicing and foreclosure abuses, provides substantial financial relief to borrowers, and establishes significant new homeowner protections in the future. In addition to cash payments to avoid litigation, the banks also agree to undertake other

activities, such as principal forgiveness, interest-rate-reduction refinancing, and forbearance during unemployment. The settlement also enhances protections available under the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act and provides additional assistance when Servicemembers are forced to sell their home at a loss due to reassignment to another location.

“VA will continue its oversight of lenders and servicers to ensure that Veterans and Servicemembers are able to enjoy the benefits of VA’s home loan program, including access to no-downpayment loans and assistance in retaining their homes should they encounter payment difficulties,” added Under Secretary for Benefits Allison A. Hickey. VA has always provided assistance to Veterans and Servicemembers who experience trouble paying their mortgage, whether they have a VA loan or not. Depending on the situation, VA’s loan specialists can intervene on a Veteran’s behalf to help pursue home-retention options such as repayment plans, forbearances and loan modifications. To get help, Veterans and Servicemembers – even those without a VA guaranteed loan – may call a national toll-free number, 1-877-827-3702 to speak with VA loan specialists who will provide information about the process of obtaining a VA-guaranteed home loan, or assistance in retaining their home loan or avoiding foreclosure. Information about the VA Home Loan Guaranty program is also available online at <http://www.benefits.va.gov/homeloans>. To see videos of Veterans who reached out to VA and were able to keep their homes or avoid foreclosure, please visit www.benefits.va.gov/homeloans/alt-foreclosure.asp. Since 1944, when home loan guaranties were first offered under the original GI Bill, VA has guaranteed more than 19.4 million home loans worth \$1.18 trillion. VA helped over 72,000 (83 percent) Veterans who were in default on their VA guaranteed loan avoid foreclosure in FY 2011, a 10 percent increase from FY 2010. This assistance resulted in a 30 percent reduction in foreclosures over the same year. VA’s foreclosure rate for the last 14 quarters and serious delinquency rate for the last 11 quarters have been the lowest of all measured loan types, according to a survey by

the Mortgage Bankers Association. (*VA News Release, February 16, 2012*)

VA'S HOME LOAN PROGRAM CONTINUES TO LEAD MORTGAGE INDUSTRY

Low Foreclosure Rates and High Loan Volume Cap Successful Fiscal Year

Home loans guaranteed by the Department of Veterans Affairs continue to have the lowest serious delinquency and foreclosure rates in the mortgage industry. Veterans have also taken advantage of their home loan benefit in record numbers, as VA loan originations reached their highest total in eight years. "The continued strong performance and high volume of VA loans are a testament to the importance of VA's home loan program and a tribute to the skilled VA professionals who help homeowners in financial trouble keep their homes," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Eric K. Shinseki. Last year, VA helped 72,391 Veterans and Servicemembers who were in default on their mortgage loan retain their homes or avoid foreclosure, an increase from 66,030 from the prior year. At the same time, foreclosures on VA guaranteed loans dropped by 28 percent. According to the Mortgage Bankers Association National Delinquency Survey, VA's foreclosure rate for the last 14 quarters and serious delinquency rate for the last 11 quarters have been the lowest of all measured loan types, even prime loans. In fiscal year 2011, VA guaranteed 357,594 loans, an increase of nearly 14 percent over last year. There are currently over 1.5 million active VA home loans. The program makes home ownership more affordable for Veterans, active duty Servicemembers, and eligible surviving spouses by permitting no-downpayment loans and by protecting lenders from loss if the borrower fails to repay the loan. Much of the program's strength stems from the efforts of VA employees and loan servicers nationwide, whose mission is to ensure all Veterans receive every possible opportunity to remain in their homes, avoid foreclosure, and protect their credit from the consequences of a foreclosure. "We are committed to making even more Veterans and Servicemembers aware of this important benefit and

delivering the assistance they deserve when financial difficulties arise," said VA's Under Secretary for Benefits Allison A. Hickey. For Veterans and Servicemembers who have trouble meeting their mortgage obligations or anticipate problems in the near future, VA first recommends contacting their loan servicer. Depending on the situation, VA's loan specialists can intervene on a Veteran's behalf to help pursue home-retention options such as repayment plans, forbearances, and loan modifications. Veterans and Servicemembers can also call VA toll-free at (877) 827-3702 to speak with a VA specialist concerning foreclosure avoidance. Veterans may obtain a certificate of eligibility and sign up for eBenefits through the web portal at www.ebenefits.va.gov. The Department of Defense and VA jointly developed the eBenefits portal as a single secure point of access for online benefit information and tools to perform multiple self-service functions such as checking the status of their claim. Servicemembers may enroll in eBenefits using their Common Access Card at any time during their military service, or before they leave during their Transition Assistance Program briefings. Veterans may also enroll in eBenefits and obtain a premium account by verifying their identity in-person at the nearest regional office or online depending on their status, or calling VA's toll free number at 1-800-827-1000. Since 1944, when home loan guaranties were first offered under the original GI Bill, VA has guaranteed more than 19.4 million home loans worth over \$1.1 trillion. To obtain more information about the VA Home Loan Guaranty Program, please visit the program's home page at www.benefits.va.gov/homeloans. (*VA News Release, January 30, 2012*)

VA PUBLISHES REGULATION ON NEWBORN CARE

The Department of Veterans Affairs has published a regulation officially amending VA's medical benefits package to include up to seven days of medical care for newborns delivered by women Veterans who are receiving VA maternity care benefits. "The regulation change makes formal the commitment VA made to women Veterans," said

Secretary of Veterans Affairs Erik K. Shinseki. "This falls in line with the broad range of services VA is proud to offer women Veterans who have served this nation." Newborn care includes routine post-delivery care and all other medically necessary services that are in accord with generally accepted standards of medical practice. The effective date of the rule is Dec. 19, 2011, but the regulation applies retroactively to newborn care provided to eligible women Veterans on or after May 5, 2011. VA has women Veterans program managers at every VA medical center to help women Veterans learn more about the health care benefits they have earned with their service. For more information about VA healthcare for women Veterans, visit <http://www.womenshealth.va.gov>. (VA News Release, January 27, 2012)

HUD, VA TO PROVIDE PERMANENT HOUSING AND SUPPORT TO MORE THAN 10,000 HOMELESS VETS

Latest estimate shows veterans homelessness fell by nearly 12 percent. U.S. Housing and Urban Development Secretary Shaun Donovan and U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Eric K. Shinseki announced that HUD will provide \$72.6 million to public housing agencies in all 50 states and the District of Columbia to supply permanent housing and case management for more than 10,000 homeless veterans. The permanent supportive housing assistance is provided through HUD's Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing Program (HUD-VASH), a program administered by HUD, VA, and local housing agencies to provide permanent housing with case management and other supportive services for homeless veterans across the country. "It's a national disgrace that one out of every six men and women in our shelters once wore a uniform to serve our country," said HUD Secretary Donovan. "But we know that by providing housing assistance and case management services, we can significantly reduce the number of veterans living on our streets. Working together, HUD, VA and local housing agencies are making real progress toward ending veteran homelessness once and for all." "Under the leadership of President Obama, we

have made significant progress in the fight to end homelessness among veterans, but more work remains," said VA Secretary Shinseki. "The partnership between the federal government and community agencies across the country has strengthened all of our efforts to honor our veterans and keep us on track to prevent and eliminate veteran homelessness by 2015." This funding to local housing agencies is part of the Obama Administration's commitment to end Veteran and long-term chronic homelessness by 2015. Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness serves as a roadmap for how the federal government will work with state and local agreements to confront the root causes of homelessness, especially among former servicemen and women. HUD's annual "point in time" estimate of the number of homeless persons and families for 2011 found that veteran homelessness fell by nearly 12 percent (or 8,834 people) since January 2010. The grants are part of \$75 million appropriated for Fiscal Year 2012 to support the housing needs of homeless veterans. VA Medical Centers (VAMC) provide supportive services and case management to eligible homeless veterans. This is the first of two rounds of the 2012 HUD-VASH funding. HUD expects to announce the remaining funding by the end of this summer. VAMCs work closely with homeless veterans then refer them to public housing agencies for these vouchers, based upon a variety of factors, most importantly the duration of the homelessness and the need for longer term more intensive support to obtain and maintain permanent housing. The HUD-VASH program includes both the rental assistance the voucher provides and the comprehensive case management that VAMC staff provides. Veterans participating in the HUD-VASH program rent privately owned housing and generally contribute no more than 30 percent of their income toward rent. VA offers eligible homeless veterans clinical and supportive services through its medical centers across the U.S., Guam and Puerto Rico. (HUD No. 12-063, March 27, 2012)

VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL FUND HAS A NATIONAL CALL FOR PHOTOS CAMPAIGN

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund has a National Call for Photos campaign. This campaign is to collect a photo of each of the over 58,000 men and women whose names are inscribed on the Wall. These photos will be used in the yet to be built Underground Education Center to be built adjacent to The Vietnam Memorial Wall and will also appear on The Virtual Wall website. Please help us locate photos of Delawareans whose names appear on The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall. To date VVMF has 55 of the needed 122 photos. You may go to www.VVMF.org to learn more about how to go to "most" Fed Ex/Kinko's offices and scan for free the photo. A hard copy photograph may be mailed directly to VVMF, but there is no GUARANTEE the photo will be returned. Therefore, scanning the photo is best. If you have any questions contact Judy C. Campbell, VVA Chapter 83, Gold Star Representative, PO Box 8167, Wilmington, DE 19803

VETERAN SERVICE OFFICERS

Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs

(New Castle County) Mr. John K. Williams - Delaware Veterans Memorial Cemetery (Bear, DE) may be reached Monday-Friday, 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM, (302) 834-8046. Please call for an appointment.

(Kent County) Dover office - Monday-Friday, 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM, (302) 739-2792 or (800) 344-9900 (in State). Please call for an appointment.

(Sussex County) Ms. Laurie A. White - Delaware Veterans Memorial Cemetery (Millsboro, DE) may be reached Monday-Friday, 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM, at (302) 934-5653. Please call for an appointment.

MOBILE VETERANS SERVICE CENTER

You may contact Ms. White at the Delaware Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Millsboro, DE at (302) 934-5653. Ms. White also provides services

for veterans from the mobile Service Center at the following locations:

APR 18	Nanticoke Cheer Center
MAY 02	Georgetown Cheer Center
MAY 09	Home of the Brave
MAY 16	Nanticoke Cheer Center
JUN 13	Home of the Brave
JUN 20	Nanticoke Cheer Center

American Legion

Robert McBride, Dept. Service Officer, (302) 993-7256, will visit the following posts between 9:00 AM and 12:00 NOON on the following dates:

APR 13	Walter L Fox, Post #2	302-674-3922
APR 20	Laurel Post #19	302-875-9948
APR 27	David Harrison, Post #14	302-659-0160
MAY 04	Oak Orchard/Riverdale, Post #28 (8:00-12:00)	302-945-1673
MAY 11	Walter L Fox, Post #2	302-674-3922
MAY 18	Laurel Post #19	302-875-9948
MAY 25	David Harrison, Post #14	302-659-0160
JUN 01	Oak Orchard/Riverdale, Post #28 (8:00-12:00)	302-945-1673
JUN 08	Walter L Fox, Post #2	302-674-3922
JUN 15	Laurel Post #19	302-875-9948
JUN 22	David Harrison, Post #14	302-659-0160
JUN 29	Nanticoke Post #6	302-629-9915

Disabled American Veterans (DAV)

DAV Dept. Service Officers: 302-697-9061

Paul Lardizzone: 302-382-3448

H. Mark Wischman: 302-382-3449

Kent County Schedule:

DAV Headquarters Building, 183 South Street, Camden, DE 19934

Monday thru Thursday 8:00-12:00 PM (Walk-ins)
1:00-3:00 PM (Appt only)

Sussex County Schedule:

Department of Labor (Div of Employment & Trng)
20093 Office Circle, Georgetown, DE 19947

Thursday 8:00-12:00 PM (Walk-ins) 302-856-5230
Kent & Sussex evening appointments prescheduled
by request only.

Paralyzed Veterans of America (DE/MD PVA)

Darrell Johnson, Sr., National Service Officer, VA
Regional Office, 1601 Kirkwood Hwy, Room 26,
Wilmington, DE 19805, (302) 993-7252 or (302)
993-7253. Mr. Johnson will make home visits upon
request for Vets who do not have transportation to
the VA. He will be in the Oak Orchard area the 1st
Tuesday, Dover the 2nd Tuesday, and Frederica the
3rd Tuesday of each month.

Purple Heart NSO (MOPH)

Cheryl Yard, National Service Officer, VA
Regional Office, 1601 Kirkwood Hwy, Wilmington,
DE 19805, (302) 993-7263 M-F 8:30 to 4:00.
Walk-ins welcome.

Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)

Darlene Stiff, Dept. Service Officer, VA Regional
Office, 1601 Kirkwood Hwy, Room 21,
Wilmington, DE 19805, (302) 993-7260 .

1ST Thursday

Delaware DOL	(993-7260)	8:00-11:00 AM
Milford VFW	(422-4412)	1:30-4:00 PM

2nd Thursday

Delaware DOL	(993-7260)	8:00-11:00 AM
Milton VFW	(684-4975)	1:30-4:00 PM

3rd Thursday

Delaware DOL	(993-7260)	8:00-11:00 AM
Rehoboth VFW	(227-3469)	1:30-4:00 PM

4th Thursday

Delaware DOL	(993-7260)	8:00-11:00 AM
Seaford VFW	(629-3092)	1:30-4:00 PM

5th Thursday

Delaware DOL	(993-7260)	8:00-11:00 AM
--------------	------------	---------------

NOTE: All persons interested in Outreach Services
should first call our office so that some advance
information may be obtained to accelerate the
application process. Kent & Sussex County
residents may call 1-302-993-7260. NOTE: persons

desiring assistance at the Thursday-downstate
locations should be at the Delaware DOL no later
than 9:00 AM or at the afternoon locations by 2:00
PM. The VFW provides services to veterans and
their dependents without respect to veteran service
organization affiliation; membership in the VFW is
NOT required for service.

Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA)

Terry Baker, National Service Officer, VA Regional
Office, 1601 Kirkwood Hwy, Wilmington, DE
19805, (302) 993-7250 or (302) 993-7251.

DELAWARE VETERANS MEMORIAL CEMETERY

New Castle Co. Section (Bear, DE)...302-834-8046
Sussex Co. Section (Millsboro, DE)...302-934-5653

DELAWARE VETERANS HOME

100 Delaware Veterans Blvd.....302-424-6000
Milford, DE 19963

EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

Al Barclift (Wilmington).....	302-761-8093
Allen Jones (Wilmington).....	302-761-8141
Toney Frasier (Newark).....	302-368-6622
Cliff Rumph (Dover).....	302-857-5870
Kevin Gunning (Dover).....	302-857-5870
Dawn Smith (Georgetown).....	302-856-5230

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

VA Regional Office (Claims & Benefits)
1601 Kirkwood Hwy
Wilmington, DE 19805.....1-800-827-1000
VA Medical Center (Healthcare)
1601 Kirkwood Hwy
Wilmington, DE 19805.....1-800-461-8262
.....302-994-2511
Dover VA Outpatient Clinic
1198 S. Governors Ave
Dover, DE 19904.....1-800-461-8262 x2400
Georgetown VA Outpatient Clinic
20653 Dupont Hwy
Georgetown, DE 199471-800-461-8262 x2300

Readjustment Counseling

Vet Center (New Castle Co.) 1-800-461-8262 x5434
Vet Center (Kent Co.).....1-800-461-8262 x2430
Vet Center (Sussex Co.).....302-824-0856
.....302-824-8291
Veterans Outreach Program
Listening Post–Lower Delaware.302-422-8033x173

RETIREE ACTIVITIES

Retired Activities Office

MSgt (R) Bill Oldham (William.Oldham.2@us.af.mil), Bldg 520, Room 105, Dover AFB, DE 19902, (302) 677-4610.

Retired Navy Activities Affairs Office

Naval & Marine Corps Reserve Center, 3920 Kirkwood Hwy, Wilmington, DE 19808, (302) 998-5194.

VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS POC

Air Force Sergeants Association

Bill McMullen.....(302) 697-9750

American Legion

Richard “Ric” Santos.....(302) 628-5221

AMVETS

Albert Weir.....(302) 629-4141

Colonial Paralyzed Veterans of America

Ron Hoskins.....(302) 365-5670

Phyllis Palabrica.....(302) 365-5670

American Gold Star Mothers

Pauline Anderson.....(302) 633-0239

DELVETS

Robert Wasson.....(302) 798-2951

Disabled American Veterans

Paul Lardizzone.....(302) 697-9061

Fleet Reserve Association

James M. Jackson.....(302) 834-1719

40 & 8

Eugene “Chip” Rosan.....(302) 678-8077

Jewish War Veterans

Len Markovitz.....(302) 234-4785

Korean War Veterans Association

George Goss.....(302) 424-0461

Marine Corps League

James Thompson.....(302) 284-2708

Military Officers Association of America

Tom Kelly (New Castle Co.).....(302) 834-9659

Ron Sarg (Kent Co.).....(302) 678-1603

Fred Seth, Jr. (Sussex Co.).....(302) 519-0611

Military Order of the Purple Heart

Cornelius “Bill” Carroll.....(302) 655-3820

Military Order of the World Wars

Karen Kelly.....(302) 834-9659

E-mail: karenleakelly@verizon.net

The Reserve Officers Association

LTC Richard Chappell (Ret).....(302) 658-4987

E-mail: rw49ps54ud@comcast.net

Veterans of Foreign Wars

Paul Phillips Jr.....(302) 656-5022

Vietnam Veterans of America

Paul Davis.....(302) 697-8384

WAVES Nat'l

Ruth Harden.....(302) 998-1373

COMMISSION OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Jim Thompson (Chairman).....MCL

Paul Lardizzone (Vice Chairman).....DAV

Cornelius “Bill” Carroll.....MOPH

Robert P. Corsa.....VVA

Maurice Evans.....American Legion

George T. Goss.....KWVA

Ruth B. Harden.....WAVES NAT'L

Charles Keithley.....40 & 8

Joseph “Joe” Lank.....MOWW

Mark Newman.....VFW

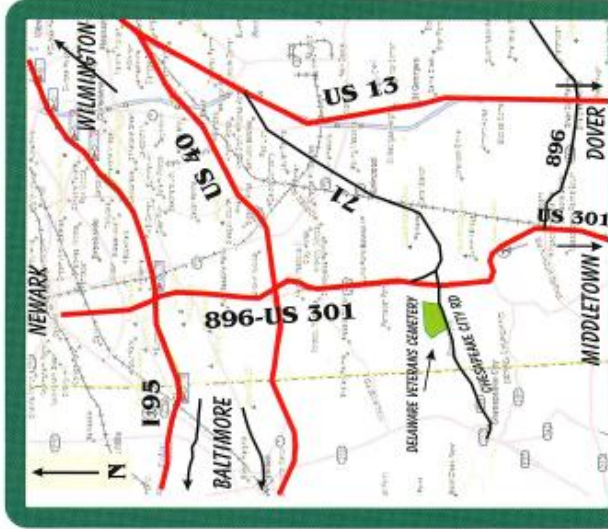
Barry Newstadt.....JWV

Ronald Sarg.....MOAA

Robert E. Wasson.....DELVETS

Albert W. Weir.....AMVETS

New Castle County Cemetery Information



Address:

2465 Chesapeake City Road
Bear, Delaware 19701
302-834-8046 Fax 302-834-3787

Normal Office Hours:

8:00 am ~ 4:00 pm M~F
Closed Saturday and Sunday

Cemetery Hours:

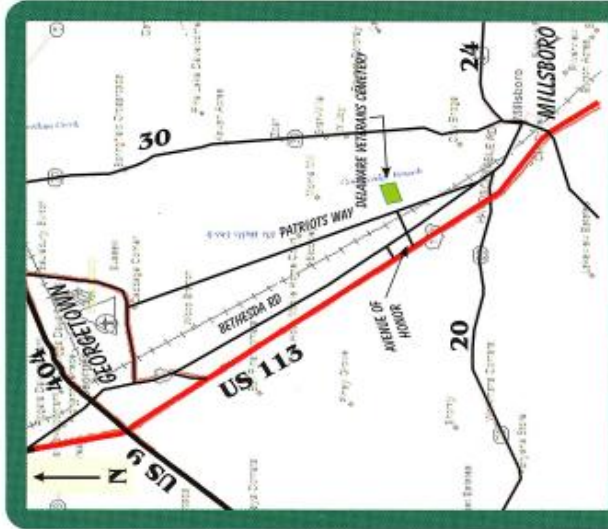
Dawn till Dusk 7 Days a week

Rules and regulations:

Posted throughout the cemetery.



Sussex County Cemetery Information



Address:

26669 Patriots Way
Millsboro, Delaware 19966
302-934-5653 Fax 302-934-5647

Normal Office Hours:

8:00 am ~ 4:00 pm M~F
Closed Saturday and Sunday

Cemetery Hours:

Dawn till Dusk 7 Days a week

Rules and regulations:

Posted throughout the cemetery



DELAWARE VETERANS MEMORIAL CEMETERY



**DUTY
HONOR
COUNTRY**



STATE OF DELAWARE

COMMISSION OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Robbins Building — 802 Silver Lake Blvd. Dover DE, 19904
1-800-344-9900 or 1-302-739-2792 FAX 1-302-739-2794

www.veteransaffairs.delaware.gov

Delaware Veterans Memorial Cemetery

In 1983, the 132nd Delaware General Assembly authorized the establishment of a state veterans' cemetery. On October 15, 1989, the New Castle Veterans Memorial Cemetery was formally dedicated to serve honorably discharged veterans of Delaware. The cemetery situated on a 52 acre site is located west of Route 896 and north of the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal. The New Castle cemetery is currently undergoing an aggressive 10 year expansion plan. Upon its completion, an additional 6,000 in-ground vaults and 700 cremation wall niches will be available.

In 1996, the 137th General Assembly authorized the establishment of a second cemetery in Sussex County. Located south of the Stockley Center, off of route 113 and north of Millsboro, the cemetery was dedicated on October 15, 1999. The popularity of our services has prompted expansion at our Sussex cemetery by the installation of 400 additional wall niches.

The Delaware Commission of Veteran Affairs operates the memorial cemetery system to commemorate the military service of our deceased veterans. Our cemetery system provides the visiting family and friends an atmosphere of peacefulness and dignity.

QUALIFICATIONS

- 1) Any Delaware resident who was honorably discharged from active service, (peacetime or wartime).
- 2) Any Delaware National Guardsmen or Reservist:
 - a. Eligible for retirement pay at age 60 (regardless of residency); or
 - b. Who has served on active duty for 180 days or more, (does not have to be consecutive).
- 3) The veteran's spouse, (at time of spouse's death).
- 4) The veteran's dependents:
 - a. unmarried child, (under the age of 21); or
 - b. a verifiable life-long dependent of the veteran.
- 5) A Delaware resident is a veteran who has been:
 - a. Legal resident of Delaware at the time of death; or
 - b. Legal resident for a period of 10 or more years, (does not have to be consecutive); or
 - c. Legal resident of Delaware when he or she entered the Armed Forces of the United States, (home of record).

Rules and Regulations

To enable the Cemetery staff to provide maintenance to our grounds in a manner befitting your loved ones and to maintain a military like atmosphere. Your cooperation regarding the following regulations will be greatly appreciated.

- ★ Funeral flowers, holders, containers, baskets and easels shall be removed and disposed of when they become unsightly.
 - ★ Natural cut flowers or artificial flowers may be placed in a permanent vase or cone shaped metal container and are to be placed to the right side of the marker base.
 - ★ Artificial flowers, potted plants, baskets, wreaths and other decorations whose overall dimensions do not exceed 18 inches in length or diameter may be placed three (3) days prior to Nationally recognized holidays. If the family desires to retain any decoration, they should remove it within the seven (7) day period after the holiday. After the seventh (7th) day, any of the above-mentioned decorations on the plot shall be removed. The only exception is when the holiday falls within the mowing season.
 - ★ During the mowing season (April 15th through September 15th), all items on the graves shall be removed unless properly contained in one of the above mentioned type vases.
 - ★ Winter Decorations: Blankets, mounds, wreaths, artificial flowers and other winter decorations of a floral nature are permitted beginning on December 1st. All such items will be removed after the 15th of January or as the ground foreman dictates.
 - ★ Balloons, streamers, hanging ornaments, statues, vigil lights, glass objects of any nature or other commemorative items are strictly prohibited on the graves, surrounding trees, shrubbery, benches or gazebos.
 - ★ Planting of any kind is strictly prohibited around grave markers and is limited to surrounding trees or shrubbery with the expressed consent of the grounds foreman and/or Cemetery Administrator.
- The Delaware Veterans Memorial Cemetery assumes no responsibility for any floral arrangement and reserves the right to remove any arrangement or decoration that does not conform to the aforementioned standards.
- Public law 94-344, known as the Federal Flag Code, as it pertains to the etiquette of the Stars and Stripes, indicates that a flag may be placed upon a grave so long as it does not touch the ground. Delaware Veterans Memorial Cemetery will provide a flag for Memorial Day and Veterans Day observances. Families may display flags for their loved ones at their own expense and are only authorized to place the U.S. or service flag of their loved one. The DVMC assumes no responsibility for the wear and tear or replacement of individual flags.
- Pets are not permitted on the cemetery grounds, with the exception of K-9 assistance for the visually impaired.

Rules and Regulations subject to change.



Delaware Veterans Memorial Cemetery
(See Locations & Directions On Back)

The Centurion is published for informational purposes only and does not necessarily reflect the views of the Commission of Veterans Affairs or the State of Delaware. Paid for with State Funds.

As a result of the state's current economic climate, "The Centurion" newsletter will be distributed electronically. To receive your copy by email, subscribe to "The Centurion" at our web site: www.veteransaffairs.delaware.gov. To obtain a hard copy of the newsletter, visit one of our office locations or your local veterans post home. This policy will remain in effect until further notice. Thank you for your consideration and understanding.

STATE OF DELAWARE

"Serving Delaware's Veterans"

